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**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Isamu TAKAHARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3641

Application No.: 10/509,518

Examiner: S. JOHNSON

Filed: November 26, 2004

Docket No.: 121230

For: INITIATOR

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 9, 2007 Office Action, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following Remarks.

Claims 34-46 are pending in this application. Claims 40-42 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected species.

Claims 34, 36-38 and 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bailey, U.S. Patent No. 5,621,183, in view of O'Loughlin et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,269,560. Claims 34, 36-38, 43 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Little, II, U.S. Patent No. 5,140,906, in view of O'Loughlin. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 34 is directed to an initiator for use in, for example, an airbag or seat-belt pre-tensioner, that comprises, in pertinent part:

a conductive header...a first lead pin integrally assembled to the conductive header;

a second lead pin integrally assembled to a hole formed in the conductive header via an insulating member and penetrating the conductive header and the insulating member; ...

a cup-shaped casing airtightly fixed, ... to an outer circumference of the conductive header ... wherein the hole of the conductive header and the insulating member fitted into the hole have respective taper portions in a region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive header, the taper portions having diameters decreasing with increasing distance from the explosive.

The combinations of Bailey and O'Loughlin or Little and O'Loughlin do not teach or suggest the feature directed to the taper portions in the conductive header (that includes an integrally assembled lead pin) and insulating member in the region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive header, as recited in independent claim 34. O'Loughlin is relied upon in both rejections of claim 34 as allegedly teaching an initiator having an insulating member 152 having a tapered surface that fits with the tapered surface of a conducting member 150. Applicant respectfully submits that this assertion is incorrect because the alleged conducting member 150 is a metal weld adaptor that is used to attach the outside surface of the igniter assembly 140 via the plastic member 152 to the combustion chamber cover 46. Although the weld adaptor may be conductive because it is metal, and it may have a tapered surface, it in no way touches either one of the leads of the igniter assembly 140. Therefore, O'Loughlin fails to teach the claimed conductive header because the weld adaptor 150 does not include a lead pin that is integrally assembled to the conductive header. Moreover, O'Loughlin teaches away from an initiator in which the hole of the conductive header and the insulating member fitted into the hole have respective taper portions in a region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive header. A tapered fitting is not necessary in O'Loughlin's device because of the welds 144 used to secure the weld adaptor 150 to the cover 46.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of claim 34 and its dependent claims 36-38 and 43-46 is respectfully requested.

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bailey in view of O'Loughlin and further in view of Stonestrom, U.S. Patent No. 2,921,520. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 35 is dependent on claim 34 and adds the feature directed to the taper portions being provided over the region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive head. Stonestrom is relied upon as allegedly teaching an insulating member and conductive header that have tapered surfaces over the region where these two members are joined. In Stonestrom, the housing 1 is being construed as the conductive header and the bonding material 10 is being construed to be the insulating member. While it may be true that both the housing 1 and the bonding material 10 have tapered surfaces in the region where they are joined, neither of these surfaces includes the feature that their diameters decrease with increasing distance from the explosive. In fact, the housing 1 is slanted outward at the top such that its diameter increases with increasing distance from the explosive charge 12. This is not a mere orientation choice. Rather, housing 1 needs to be configured in this manner to allow the pin 7 to be inserted into the housing in a relatively tight fit that is completed by filling the void between the pin and housing with the bonding material 10. As such, the combination Bailey in view of O'Loughlin and further in view of Stonestrom fails to teach or suggest all features of claim 35. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 35 is respectfully requested.

Claims 39 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bailey in view of O'Loughlin and further in view of Brisighella, U.S. Patent No. 6,341,562. Claims 39 and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Little, II in view of O'Loughlin, and further in view of Brisighella. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 39 is directed to a seatbelt pre-tensioner comprising the initiator according to claim 34. Claim 47 is directed to a method of inflating an inflator that defines a seatbelt pre-

tensioner, and the method comprising energizing the initiator according to claim 34. For at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 34, the combination of Bailey and O'Loughlin or Little and O'Loughlin fail to make a prima facie case of obviousness and the addition of Brisighella does not cure this deficiency. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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